^{>ih *April* THE RETURN OF DRAKE'S FLEET

It is daily expected that the fleet of Sir Francis Drake and Sir John Hawkins will return to Plymouth, which may cause confusion since the place is appointed as the *rendezvous* of the army about to set out The Council have ordered that a pinnace shall continually lie out to command any ships to forbear to come into Plymouth except in case of necessity, but to come directly to Portsmouth A messenger of the Chamber is also to be despatched to the Mayors and Customers of all ports from Portsmouth to Penzance, St Ives and Padstow that they suffer none to come to land until he has been diligently searched for Spanish money, pearls, jewels or any other thing of value, lest her Majesty or any of the adventurers in the voyage be defrauded of the benefit that ought to come to them The messenger shall leave a copy of his warrant with every Mayor and receive from him a certificate

^'*Jth April* THE DEATH OF DRAKE AND HAWKINS

Several of Sir Francis Drake's fleet have now corne in to Falmouth, but he and Sir John Hawkins, and many men of worth are dead They have brought back some things but not enough to countervail the charge of the journey They bring news that a very great fleet is preparing at Ferrol, by the Groyne

zgtb April ONE CONDEMNED FOR SPREADING FALSE RUMOURS

One Smith, being a base fellow, a peasant and a boy, was this day sentenced in the Star Chamber to lose one of his ears upon the pillory at Westminster, the other at Windsor, to be whipped, and to have a paper on his head containing his slanderous words, to be imprisoned during pleasure, and fined £20. This fellow

being recently one of the pressed men at Dover reported when
he was dismissed that the news throughout the soldiers was that
the Lord Admiral's ship being searched by the Earl of Essex,
and he, opening divers barrels wherein he supposed to have been
gunpowder, found ashes, dust and sand, and thereupon he
called the Lord Admiral traitor And so they came both to
Court, and there the Earl of Essex and the Earl of Cumberland
before the Queen took the Lord Admiral by the beard, saying,
[6] Ah, thou traitor *